

# Jiang Zemin: 1926-2022

■ **Aug 17, 1926:** Born in eastern city of Yangzhou

Joins Communist Party while studying electrical engineering. Gradually rises through ranks, eventually becoming party chief in Shanghai

■ **1989:** Appointed party leader by **Deng Xiaoping** (below) in purge of liberals following crackdown on Tiananmen Square protests

■ **1989:** Succeeds Deng as chairman of Central Military Commission

■ **1993:** Becomes President of China

■ **1997:** Hong Kong reverts to Chinese sovereignty

Jiang unveils plan to privatize unprofitable state-owned enterprises. Meets with U.S. President **Bill Clinton** at White House



■ **2000:** Jiang introduces "Three Represents" theory, allowing entrepreneurs to join party

■ **2001:** China joins WTO and wins bid to host 2008 Olympics in Beijing

■ **2002:** Jiang hands reins to **Hu Jintao** in first bloodless leadership transition since 1949

■ **2019:** Last seen in public, with Hu and **Xi Jinping**, at celebrations marking 70 years since founding of People's Republic of China

■ **1996:** Beijing intimidates Taiwan with missile tests in run-up to its first direct presidential election

■ **1999:** Jiang oversees heavy-handed crackdown on **Falun Gong** spiritual movement

■ **1999, 2001:** Jiang manages crises in Sino-U.S. relations after NATO bombing of China's embassy in Belgrade and collision of Chinese fighter and U.S. spy plane in Chinese airspace



■ **2022:** Jiang dies at age 96